Lincoln. p. 826.

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ART AND PROGRESS

CONTENTS

THE MOTHER—A SMALL BRONZE
By Bessie Potter Vonnoh

CHARLES W. HAWTHORNE
By Anna Seaton-Schmidt

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO LINCOLN
Designed by Henry Bacon

PAGEANTRY By George P. Baker

THE FEDERATION'S EXHIBITIONS
Eight Illustrations

EDITORIALS NOTES
REVIEWS BULLETIN

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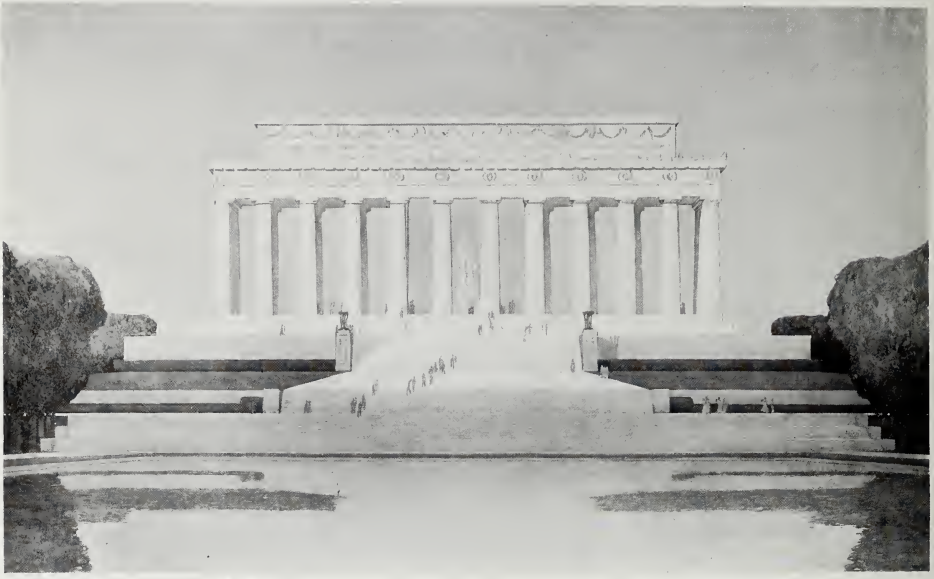


THE PROPOSED LINCOLN MEMORIAL — HENRY BACON, ARCHITECT

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO LINCOLN

DESIGNED BY HENRY BACON

ONE of the matters which will be brought before Congress during the early part of the present session will be that of the National Memorial to Lincoln to be erected in Washington, about which there has already been much discussion.

It will be recalled that in the winter of 1911 Congress appropriated $2,000,000 for this Memorial and appointed a special committee to secure plans and designs from which a selection might be made. On March 4th of that year this Committee, of which President Taft is Chairman, applied to the Commission of Fine Arts for suggestions as to the site and general character of the design which in the opinion of this body of experts might be most appropriate. The Commission of Fine Arts reported on July 17th unanimously in favor of the site near the banks of the Potomac in what is now known as Potomac Park.

In July Mr. Henry Bacon and Mr. John Russell Pope, of New York, were each invited to submit models and designs for the Memorial—Mr. Bacon for the site selected by the Park Commission and Mr. Pope for sites recommended by others. After careful consideration the Commission of Fine Arts reported in favor of Mr. Bacon's design, suggesting, however, certain alterations. At the request of the Lincoln Memorial Commission both Mr. Bacon and Mr. Pope revised and resubmitted plans and designs. Again the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts was in favor of Mr. Bacon's work, and on December 4th the Memorial Commission announced its intention to report favorably on this plan and design.

With Mr. Bacon's consent a copy of the report which he rendered to the Lincoln Memorial Commission is given herewith as well as reproductions of his revised design.

The report, which is dated June 28, 1912, is as follows:

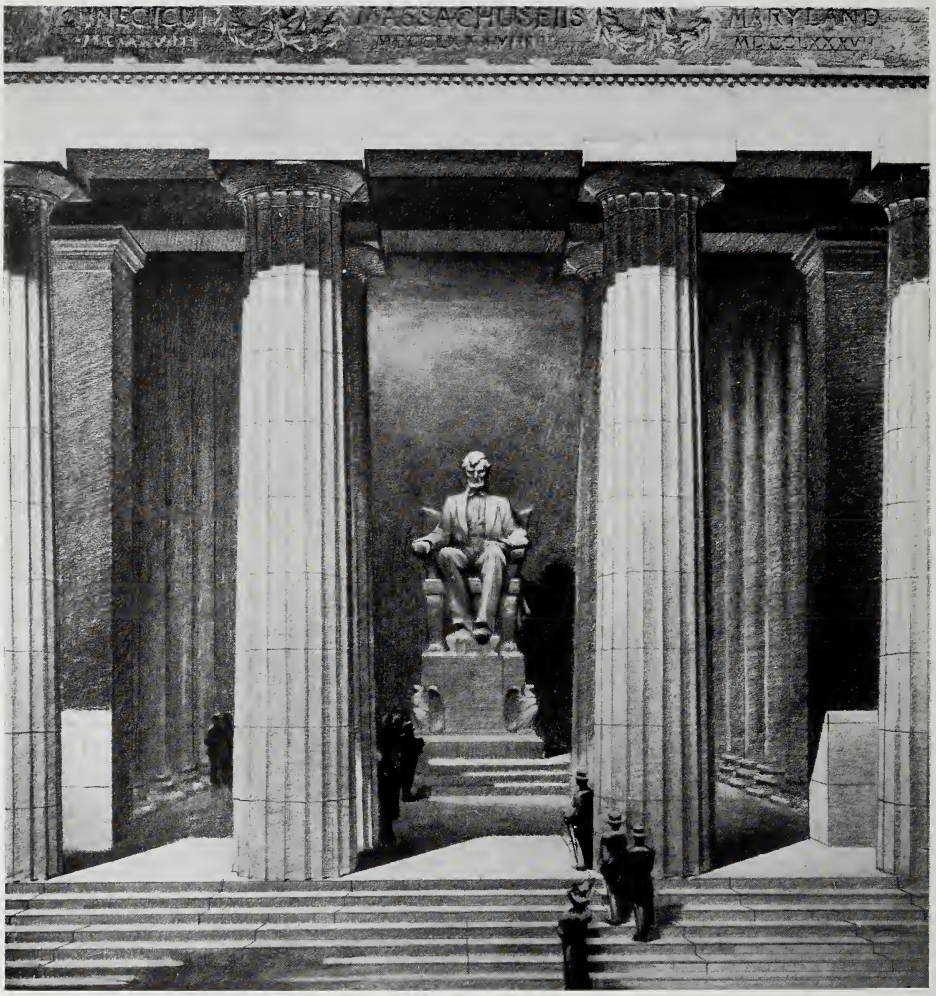
"After ten months' study of the possibilities of the Potomac Park site and after consideration during that time of other sites proposed for the Lincoln Memorial, I am confirmed in my opinion formed ten years ago that the location in Potomac Park on the axis of the Washington Monument and the Capitol is the only one where the monument to Abraham Lincoln now contemplated by Congress should be erected. There it will have a relation with the Washington Monument and the Capitol that would be impossible on any other site, and it will have a close relation with Arlington Cemetery, where those who fought for the Union are buried. A large structure placed on an eminence raised in the Potomac Park site will have, by reason of its environment, a majestic significance impossible to be obtained on any other site, and all the esthetic and practical conditions necessary to the erection of a proper memorial to Abraham Lincoln can there be fulfilled.

"On the great axis, planned over a century ago, we have at one end the Capitol, which is the monument of the Government, and to the west, over a mile distant from the Capitol, is the monument to Washington, one of the founders of the Government. If the Lincoln Memorial is built on this same axis still further to the west by the shore of the Potomac, we will there have the monument of the man who saved the Government, thus completing an unparalleled composition which cannot fail to impart to each of its monuments a value in addition to that which each standing alone would possess.

"The design submitted of the Lincoln Memorial is a development of the designs already submitted by me. The structure has been enlarged, the design of the approaches, terraces and steps has been revised, and the front of the Memorial has been made more open. From the beginning of my study I believed that this memorial of Abraham Lincoln should be composed of four features,—a statue of the man, a memorial of his Gettysburg speech, a memorial of his Second Inaugural address, and a symbol of the Union of the United States which he stated it was his paramount object to save—and which he did save. Each feature should be related to the others by means of its design and position, and each should be so arranged that it becomes an integral part of the whole, in order to attain a unity and simplicity in the appearance of the monument. Each feature should impress the beholder with its greatest force and by means of isolation this can be accomplished, though this isolation should not be planned to the extent of impairing the relation of each feature to the others.

"The most important object is the statue of Lincoln which is placed in the center of the memorial, and by virtue of its imposing position in the place of honor, the gentleness, power and intelligence of the man expressed as far as possible by the sculptor's art, will predominate. This portion of the memorial where the statue is placed would be unoccupied by any other object that would detract from its effectiveness, and the visitor will be alone with it.

"The smaller halls at each side of the central space would each contain a memorial—one of the Second Inaugural and the other of the Gettysburg address. These speeches would be shown by bronze letters arranged on a monumental tablet, and adjacent low reliefs or decoration would relate in allegory Lincoln's great qualities evident in those speeches. While these memorials can be seen from any part of the hall, they are partially screened from the central portion where the statue is placed by means of a row of Ionic columns, giving a certain isolation to the space they occupy and augmenting thereby their importance. I believe these two great speeches made by Lincoln will always have a far greater meaning to the citizens of the United States and visitors from other countries, than a portrayal of periods or events by means of decoration. I think, however, some reliefs and decoration designed in conjunction with these memorials and representing in allegory Lincoln's qualities, such as Charity, Pa-



THE PROPOSED LINCOLN MEMORIAL — HENRY BACON, ARCHITECT

VIEW OF INTERIOR FROM ENTRANCE

tience, Intelligence, Patriotism, Devotion to High Ideals, and Humaneness, will emphasize the effect of the speeches.

"Surrounding the walls enclosing these memorials of the man, is planned a colonnade forming a symbol of the Union, each column representing a State —thirty-six in all—one for each State existing at the time of Lincoln's death, and on the walls appearing above the colonnade and supported at intervals by eagles, are forty-eight memorial festoons, one for each State existing at the present time.

"I believe this symbol representing the Union surrounding the memorials of the man who saved the Union, will give to them a great significance that will strengthen in the hearts of beholders the feelings of Reverence and Honor for the Memory of Abraham Lincoln.

"By means of terraces the ground at the site of the Lincoln Memorial will be raised until the floor of the memorial itself will be 45 feet higher than the present grade. First a circular terrace, 1,000 feet in diameter is raised 11 feet above the present grade and on its outer edge will be planted four concentric rows of trees, leaving a plateau in the

center, 755 feet in diameter, which is greater than the length of the Capitol. In the center of this plateau, surrounded by a wide roadway and walks, will rise an eminence supporting a rectangular stone terrace wall, 14 feet high, 256 feet long, and 186 feet wide. On this rectangular terrace rises the marble memorial. All the foundations of the steps, terraces and Memorial will be built on concrete piling which extends down to the solid rock.

"Three steps 8 feet high form a platform under the columns. This platform at its base is 204 feet long and 134 feet wide. The colonnade is 188 feet long and 118 feet wide, the columns being 44 feet high and 7 feet 5 inches in diameter at their base. The total height of the structure above the finished grade at the base of the terrace is 99 feet. The finished grade at the base of the terrace being 23 feet above the present grade, the total height of the building above the present grade is 122 feet. The outside of the Memorial Hall is 84 feet wide and 156 feet long.

"The colonnaded entrance to the

THE PROPOSED LINCOLN MEMORIAL HENRY BACON, ARCHITECT

VIEW FROM THE PORTICO

THE PROPOSED LINCOLN MEMORIAL — HENRY BACON, ARCHITECT

SHOWING INSCRIPTION ON WALL AND SUGGESTED DECORATION

Memorial Hall, which is 45 feet wide and 44 feet high, is equipped with sliding bronze grilles, filled with plate glass. These grilles during the day will be rolled back into the space provided in the walls, and will be closed at night for the protection of the Memorial. As they are mostly glass they can also be kept closed during the day in cold weather without obstructing the entrance of light through the entrance, and a temporary bronze and glass vestibule can be provided in the lower portion of the grilles which are subdivided at the bottom for this purpose.

"The central hall, where the statue stands, is 60 feet wide, 70 feet long, and 60 feet high. The halls where the memorials of the speeches are placed are 37 feet wide, 57 feet long and 60 feet high. The interior columns are of the Ionic order and are 50 feet high.

"The cost of erecting this Memorial, according to estimates received from a contractor of the highest standing in monumental work, the quantities being carefully computed, is $1,775,000. This estimate does not include the steps at the head of the lagoon, the statue of Lincoln, the memorials of his two speeches, or the architect's commission. With the exception of the steps, which are properly a part of the landscape gardening around the Memorial, the design I have submitted, including the statue, the memorials and the architect's commission, can be built for the sum authorized by Congress."